

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FIRST PLANTS REVIEWED FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

The first review of plants for possible inclusion on the Endangered Species List has begun for four species of wild flowers, Director Lynn A. Greenwalt of the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The plants are Monkshood (Acontium novaeboracense) found in Iowa, Ohio, New York, and Wisconsin; Sullivantia (Sullivantia renifolia) found in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin; Bird's-eye Primrose (Primula mistassinica) found in Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, New York, Wisconsin, and Canada (Labrador, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario); and Forbe's Saxifrage (Saxifraga forbesii) found in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. All of the species occur in very small numbers in highly isolated areas.

The wild flowers primarily inhabit the "driftless area" of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The region was so named by geologists and biologists because its native plants and animals are quite unlike those of the surrounding area. The region is actually an unglaciated island of terrain in the midst of a glaciated zone. The favorite habitat of these species appears to be the moist sandstone cliffs and rock ledges of the Kickapoo River Gorge in Wisconsin.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 directs the Department to review the status of plants and animals when scientific evidence indicates they might be "endangered" or "threatened" as defined by the Act.

The Department is seeking the views of the Governors of the States where the species occur and the Government of Canada. Other interested parties are invited to submit information on the status of these plants within 90 days to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.